Application Number: 09/280,609   Docket: 6402
Reply to Final O.A. of September 29, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-10. (Canceled)

11.   (Currently Amended) In a computer network having at least one server_connectable to at least one client, including a full set of configuration programs and a full set of configuration information, having a full set of option rules, relating to a set of products, connectable to at least one client, a method for creating technical configurations and electronically delivering order reports to at least one client, the method comprising:

   receiving on-line from a user on the client a selection of a desired product selected from
      the set of products, wherein the selection represents initial product configuration
      data of the desired product;

   downloading to the client from the server only limited configuration information that is a
      subset of the full set of configuration information and limited configuration
      programs that are a subset of the full configuration programs, the limited
      configuration information including option attributes of the desired product and
      limited option rules that define relationships therebetween, wherein the limited
      configuration information and limited configuration programs are determined at
      the server based on the initial product configuration data of the desired product,
      and wherein the limited configuration information and the limited configuration
      programs are downloaded to the client responsive to the user selection;

   requesting a desired technical configuration of the desired product from the user on the
      client, wherein selections for the option attributes of the desired product are
      elicited from the user;

   preliminarily checking the viability of the desired technical configuration of the desired
      product at the client, wherein the limited configuration programs verify

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conformity of the user selections for the option attributes with the limited option

rules;

receiving at the server the desired technical configuration from the client subsequent to

preliminarily checking the viability of the desired technical configuration;

performing a full check at the server on the viability of the desired technical

configuration, wherein the full set of configuration programs verify conformity of

the user selections for the option attributes with the full set of option rules;

preparing and transmitting to the client an electronic order report, if the full check at the

server is successful; and

downloading to the client from the server additional option rules that are a subset of the

full set of option rules and receiving from the client at the server a second desired

technical configuration developed on the client and verified on the client for

conformity with the additional option rules, if the full check at the server is not

successful.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising using a TCP/IP connection to pass an HTTP request from the client to the server.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration information comprises limited option attributes and limited option rules.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the limited configuration programs comprise an HTML page and client-side programs.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs comprise a plug-in or helper-application.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs include one or more programs selected from Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and Helper-Viewer.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the client-side programs are cached on the client.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached in client-side memory.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the client-side programs are cached on client-side disk storage.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of performing a full check comprises executing a CGI script on the server.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
        downloading to the client additional limited configuration information, wherein the
                additional limited configuration information is a subset of the full set of
                configuration information and includes the additional option rules; and
        wherein the second desired technical configuration is verified on the client for conformity
                with the additional limited configuration information, if the full check at the
                server is not successful.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of requesting a desired technical configuration further comprises enabling the user to specify whether an exact match or a loose match is desired between the desired technical configuration and a viable configuration.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the act of requesting a desired technical configuration further comprises using templates of pre-configured information.

24-40. (Canceled)

41.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein requesting a desired technical configuration includes requesting at least one of the group consisting of: a vehicle make, a vehicle model, and a vehicle series.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the desired technical configuration is a vehicle configuration.

43.   (Previously Presented) A method for generating an order for a vehicle on a network-based computer system including a server and a client, the server including a full configuration engine including software, a full set of option attributes, and a full set of option rules relating to each of a plurality of vehicles, the method comprising:

receiving on-line from a user on the client an identification of a desired vehicle, wherein the identification represents initial desired vehicle configuration data;

transmitting only a limited configuration engine to the client in response to the identification, the limited configuration engine corresponding to the desired vehicle and including a limited set of option attributes of the desired vehicle and a limited set of option rules that define relationships therebetween, wherein the limited set of option attributes is a subset of the full set of option attributes and the limited set of option rules is a subset of the full set of option rules, and wherein the limited configuration engine is determined at the server based on the initial desired vehicle configuration data;

requesting a vehicle configuration of the desired vehicle from the user, wherein selections for the limited set of option attributes of the desired vehicle are elicited from the user;

preliminarily checking the viability of the vehicle configuration of the desired vehicle at the client, wherein the client verifies the conformity of the user selections for the limited set of option attributes with the limited set of option rules;

receiving on-line at the server the vehicle configuration from the client subsequent to preliminarily checking the viability of the vehicle configuration;

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> performing a full viability check of the vehicle configuration at the server, wherein the
>> software of the full configuration engine verifies conformity of the user selections
>> for the limited set of option attributes with the full set of option rules;
> sending an order report from the server to the client summarizing the vehicle
>> configuration to the client, if the full viability check at the server is successful;
>> and
> downloading to the client from the server additional option rules that are a subset of the
>> full set of option rules and receiving from the client at the server a second vehicle
>> configuration developed on the client and verified on the client for conformity
>> with the additional option rules, if the full viability check at the server is not
>> successful.

44.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the limited engine includes
limited software and a limited set of option attributes.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further including, after performing the
full viability check, communicating at least one problem with the vehicle configuration to the
client.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the at least one problem is
displayed on the client in an HTML web page.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein, if the full viability check is
unsuccessful, the server transmits an updated limited configuration engine to the client, the
updated limited configuration engine including the additional option rules.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising transmitting an
updated limited configuration engine to the client, where the vehicle configuration failed to pass
the final viability check.

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49.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the client has performed a

second viability check of the second vehicle configuration, using the updated limited

configuration engine.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the receiving an identification of

the desired vehicle comprises:

    receiving on-line a vehicle make from the client;

    sending on-line a set of vehicle models to the client, the vehicle models corresponding to

        the vehicle make; and

    receiving on-line a vehicle model from the client, the vehicle model chosen from the set

        of vehicle models.

51.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the limited configuration engine

includes an HTML web page and client-side programs.

52.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the client-side programs include

a plug-in or helper-application.

53.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein the client-side programs include

one or more programs selected from the group consisting of: Java, JavaScript, ActiveX, and

Helper-Viewer.

54.   (Previously Presented) A method for generating an order for a vehicle on a network-

based computer system including a server in communication with a client, the server including a

full configuration engine including software, a full set of option attributes, and a full set of option

rules relating to each of a plurality of vehicles, the method comprising:

    receiving at the server an identification of a desired vehicle, wherein the identification

        represents initial desired vehicle configuration data;

    transmitting only a limited configuration engine from the server in response to the

        identification, the limited configuration engine corresponding to the desired

        vehicle and including a limited set of option attributes of the desired vehicle and a

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limited set of option rules that define relationships therebetween, wherein the

limited set of option attributes is a subset of the full set of option attributes and the

limited set of option rules is a subset of the full set of option rules, and wherein

the limited configuration engine is determined at the server based on the initial

desired vehicle configuration data;

receiving at the server a vehicle configuration of the desired vehicle, including selections

for the limited set of option attributes, wherein the vehicle configuration received

at the server has been preliminarily checked for viability to verify the conformity

of the limited set of option attributes with the limited set of option rules;

performing a full viability check of the vehicle configuration at the server, wherein the

software of the full configuration engine verifies conformity of the limited set of

option attributes with the full set of option rules;

sending an order report from the server summarizing the vehicle configuration, if the full

viability check at the server is successful; and

transmitting from the server additional option rules that are a subset of the full set of

option rules and receiving at the server a second vehicle configuration that has

been verified for conformity with the additional option rules, if the full viability

check at the server is not successful.

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